

21:510:490 History Research Seminar: *Media & War*

Spring 2017

Monday: 6-9pm, Hill 210

Instructor: Dr. Susan Carruthers (scarruth@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: Monday 4-6pm; other times by appointment

The second semester of the History Research Seminar is devoted entirely to producing an original research paper—complete with footnotes, bibliography, and all the scholarly trimmings.

Class meetings establish a framework for the research and writing process, supplemented by a series of individual appointments with the instructor. As the semester progresses, we will meet as a group to read and critique work-in-progress. Getting and giving feedback are important parts of the creative process. So, learning how to read critically, how to offer constructive feedback, and how in turn to respond to critique are all vital skills that this seminar seeks to impart.

Successive portions of the draft paper will be due from week 4 onwards. The draft paper will undergo **two substantial revisions** prior to the final deadline. With that long lead-time in mind, please approach initial drafts as opportunities for experimentation. It isn't helpful to get too attached to your prose at too early a stage! The chances are that you'll need to significantly re-work drafts as the process continues. Willingness to revise work is a key to success in this endeavor.

The final paper will be 6000 words in length (approx. 25pp), including notes and bibliography.

The paper must be based on independent research, including analysis of primary sources as well as secondary literature.

ATTENDANCE AND ASSESSMENT POLICY

You are required to attend EVERY meeting-- whether with the group as a whole, or with me individually. If circumstances force you to miss a meeting, I expect you to notify me in advance, and we'll reschedule individual appointments at mutually convenient times.

Please note that it will not be possible to pass this class without full participation in the process of drafting, commenting on, and revising work.

Attendance at class and individual meetings; active participation in peer review process; responsiveness to feedback	20%
Final research paper	80%

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

NOTE: Please bring TWO copies of your draft work to class-- one for me, the other for peer comment

Week 1	01/23	Group meeting: prospectus feedback; peer critique; formulating a work plan for the semester
Week 2	01/30	Individual meetings: progress reports
Week 3	02/06	Group meeting: handling sources/citations/references. Avoiding plagiarism and other forms of academic malpractice How to write an introduction
Week 4	02/13	Group meeting: workshop <i>Introduction</i>*
Week 5	02/20	Individual meetings to discuss introductions
Week 6	02/27	Group meeting: workshop <i>Section 1</i>*
Week 7	03/06	Individual meetings
SPRING BREAK	03/13	NO MEETING
Week 8	03/20	Group meeting: Section 2*
Week 9	03/27	Individual meetings: Section 2
Week 10	04/03	Group meeting: Section 3*
Week 11	04/10	Individual Meetings
Week 12	04/17	Group meeting: entire draft (first revision)*
Week 13	04/24	Individual meetings
Week 14	05/01	Group meeting--entire draft (second revision)*

Optional final individual meetings: let me know if you wish to schedule one

DEADLINE: May 8 **Final paper due* (email me by 9am)**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FINAL DEADLINE IS ABSOLUTELY IMMOVABLE!!!

PAPER SPECIFICATIONS:

Length: 6000 words (including footnotes, excluding bibliography)

Format: the paper should be submitted in double-spaced type, with page numbers.

Footnotes: should consistently conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style* (see link below)

Bibliography: must include all primary and secondary sources consulted, with single entries for titles such as newspapers from which you've drawn multiple stories.

You should list primary and secondary sources under separate headings, alphabetizing the entries and formatting them according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*

Deadline: the paper MUST be emailed to me by **9am on May 8**. Late submissions will not be accepted. As you know, you must pass this course in order to graduate as a History Major.

GRADING:

Here are the key things I'll be looking for when grading your papers:

- ⤴ **Articulation of a clearly defined thesis:** the central “problem” that your paper tackles should be strongly stated at the outset, and then consistently elucidated throughout. A compelling paper will also take pains to illustrate the stakes of the topic, establishing for readers why the issue under examination in the paper matters in larger terms.
- ⤴ **Quality of analysis:** the paper as a whole should offer a robust analysis, using evidence derived from both primary and secondary sources to argue a compelling case.
- ⤴ **Depth of research:** extensive use of appropriate primary sources, synthesized with relevant secondary literature(s), is the essential foundation of a research paper. A good paper will buttress key interpretive claims with concrete evidence, also demonstrating familiarity with existing scholarship on the topic. Make sure that all assertions are properly backed up. Quote judiciously from your sources, but take care not to let long quotations substitute for authorial interpretation.
- ⤴ **Clarity of expression:** lucid prose is a key attribute of a good research paper. Clear, readable, grammatically correct prose matters tremendously to the overall cogency of your paper. Please pay due attention to your writing style, and also to proofing the paper for typos and spelling errors before submission.
- ⤴ **Logic of organization:** the material should be structured in such a way as to maximize the rigor of your analysis. The paper should contain distinct sections, with the organizing principles behind these sub-divisions made clear to readers. The sections should follow a logical sequence. Take care to establish “signposts” in the text to help readers appreciate the direction in which

your paper is heading, and also to developing bridges between sections so that they don't read as discrete, unconnected blocks of prose.

- ✧ **Footnotes and references:** should consistently refer readers to the sources on which you've drawn, both primary and secondary. You should also demonstrate technical mastery of the conventions for citation and formatting specified in the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

I take plagiarism, cheating, and all breaches of academic integrity very seriously indeed, as does Rutgers. Work you submit should always constitute your own interpretations and arguments-- *in your own words*. Where you draw on the ideas of others and/or borrow other scholars' phrasing, you must ALWAYS acknowledge the intellectual debt, whether you're directly quoting that author, summarizing their work, or influenced by it more loosely.

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with Rutgers' policy on academic integrity. It is YOUR responsibility to be aware of what academic integrity is and which behaviors constitute violations. If you are in any doubt about the contents, or confused about what constitutes plagiarism and other forms of dishonesty, you should be sure to discuss those concerns with me before submitting written work.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

For more information please contact Kate Torres at [\(973\)353-5375](tel:9733535375) or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.